(b) Import of pepper from Sri Lanka from 2000-01 to 2003-04:-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
2000-01	1759	2791
2001-02	1241	1605
2002-03	6099	5705
2003-04	4916	3526

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Yearly average domestic price of pepper from 2000-01 is furnished below:-

Year	Average Domestic Price (Rs./Kg)
2000-01	174.24
2001-02	80.39
2002-03	88.32
2003-04	74.11
2004-05 (upto October 2004)	70.91
October, 2004	64.08

(e) During the 3rd Commerce Secretary Level Talks between India and Sri Lanka held in August, 2004 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Indian side expressed their concern over the significant increase that has taken place with regard to export of pepper to India under India-Sri lanka FTA. The Sri Lankan side informed that the production statistics of pepper tallied with that of domestic consumption and export. Both sides agreed to established a monitoring mechanism to prevent circumvention of Rules of Origin.

Views of G-20 on WTO Agreement

314. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that G-20 consortium led by India, Brazil, China, Argentina and South Africa slammed the latest draft frame work on trade issues circulated by the WTO;

(b) the steps the consortium is taking or propose to take to change the draft text acceptable to all;

(c) whether the Ambassadors from G-20 countries met after the reference of the above draft by WTO to discuss the future course of action; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) In the negotiations leading up to the Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture, adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 1st August 2004, the G-20 alliance met regularly at Ministerial, Capital-based Officials, Ambassador and at technical levels, as necessary, in order to formulate their strategy and approach to achieve their objectives of early elimination of export subsidies, substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and substantial improvements in market access for products of their export interest while safeguarding food security and livelihood concerns and rural development needs of developing countries.

The G-20 alliance also made concerted efforts with other WTO Members to ensure that the Framework Agreement, which is a negotiated document among all WTO Members, duly addresses the concerns and interests of the G-20. The G-20 is continuing to actively engage in the on-going negotiations towards establishing detailed modalities and the further commitments of WTO Members in agriculture. The negotiations have been extended up to the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Hong Kong, China, in December 2005.

Free Trade Agreement with Thailand

315. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed Free Trade Agreement with Thailand;

(b) if so, salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Indian industries have expressed apprehension about the entire process of this agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?